It’s vs. Its

**A. What you know- Fill in the Blanks**

Do + Not= \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The bike is \_\_\_\_\_\_. (hers, her, she)

Can + Not= \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ teacher. (his, him, he)

Would + Not=\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ colour. (its, his, hers)

It+ Has=\_\_\_\_\_

It + Is=

**Rule**

Use **it’s** to replace, or contract, *it has or it is*. Use **its** as a possessive pronoun, in the same way you would use *his or hers*.

**B. Apply your new knowledge- Complete the sentences with either It’s or Its.**

1. ­\_\_\_\_\_\_ such a beautiful day outside!

2. I tried to repair the book because \_\_\_ pages were all torn.

3. Joshua says \_\_\_\_ too late to apply.

4. This shirt is so old that \_\_\_\_ lost \_\_\_ colour.

5. \_\_\_ too far!

6. \_\_\_ too late to sign-up now. I’ll talk to the teacher after class.

7. The hotel was facing challenges because \_\_\_\_ management was inexperienced.

8. \_\_\_\_ walls were so decayed that the building had to be torn down.

9. I’ve always wanted to visit Parliament but \_\_\_\_ a shame that \_\_\_\_ library was closed.

10. \_\_\_\_ that time of year again for exams.

Remember: Use **it’s** to replace, or contract, *it has or it is*. Use **its** as a possessive pronoun, in the same way you would use *his or hers*.

**It’s vs. Its**

**Definition-** This lesson aims to make clearer the proper usage of the possessive its and the contraction it’s.

**Grade Level Targeted-** ENG 1P/2P. I choose this rule because it is something I remember having trouble with when I was in secondary school. For this reason I choose to aim my lesson at grade nines because I think if they get a good understanding of the rule they will have less trouble with it for the rest of their high school years.

**Common Errors and Corrections-** Use **it’s** to replace, or contract, *it has or it is*. Use **its** as a possessive pronoun, in the same way you would use *his or hers*.

**Activity** Students may work individually on the handout. The first portion helps students recall things they may already know such as how to create contractions and how to use appropriate possessive pronouns. This prepares the students for the mini-lesson on its and it’s as they are connecting something with which they are familiar with a new or different concept. From the first portion of the lesson students are reminded of the proper context for its and it’s and are given clues to help them distinguish (i.e. a reminder that if they can use ‘it is’ it is appropriate to write it’s but not its). Once this connection has been made students are challenged to use the homophones appropriately. In this last section a teacher can check for understanding and help the students accordingly.